

RETURN TO OZ

by
Jim Bollinger

'Goodbye Yellow Brick Road,' ELTON JOHN, MCA RECORDS

If you want a glittering package full of Elton John in every conceivable type song that he and Bernie Taupin can throw together, then just say "goodbye yellow brick road." This two-record set contains the full spectrum of the type of songs Elton is fond of and that we've grown to expect from him.

This double set, however, is more of a production engineering triumph than some of his past blockbusters (most notably 'Honky Chateau'). In 'Yellow Brick Road', Elton brings back traces of the sounds off 'Madman Across the Water' and gives them a certain twist while mixing them into an album that is as fresh as now, and as entertaining as one of his concerts.

This is one album that can't be spliced into isolated highs and lows; you just have to take it as it comes and regard it wholly. Be advised that the title cut is a beautiful snapshot of the entire album, and that his earlier single "Saturday Night's Alright for Fightin'" just shows how much ground Elton & Bernie covered in their trip back to Oz.

My only criticism is his over-reliance on nostalgia in some sections of this album, although this is apparently his current craze. Besides, this is adequately made up for in the total production of the album. Gone is some of the frankness of his earlier works, and one can't help but wonder, whatever happened to the technique that made "Your Song" so great? But then, you can't argue with success, and that's what 'Yellow Brick Road' is - paved with solid gold.

Sandy Ridge

This is the forest pernevil
Where lingering ghosts
Float silently through the shadows
Always watching, waiting

The wolves run rampid
Their teeth true with pain
I know no fear
I am home

Paul F. Shoenfelt

HERE AM I

by
Romeo Trajanus

Here am I, but am I here?
See I can, but only fear
The darkness blinds me, but not my ears
The silence deafens me, as I cry my tears.

Here am I, but where is here?
The cold numbs me, but still I feel
The wind stirs me, but not my breath,
As I lie here, in this land near death.

Here am I, but now I can't care,
Now the time passes by, but only stays still
And I am still alive, but my senses are nil,
I must now die some death, for life had I my fill.



GETTIN' BACK

By Jim Bollinger

'Cyan' THREE DOG NIGHT.
ABC-DUNHILL

In 'Cyan', Three Dog Night, America's No. 1 concert sensation, spins out another LP to follow up their smash single "Shambala." Though they hardly need the record sales to provide them with financial security, it seems the 3-Dog is trying to recapture the magic they once possessed on their earlier albums (especially 'Naturally'), and, to the extent that is acceptable, they accomplish the feat well.

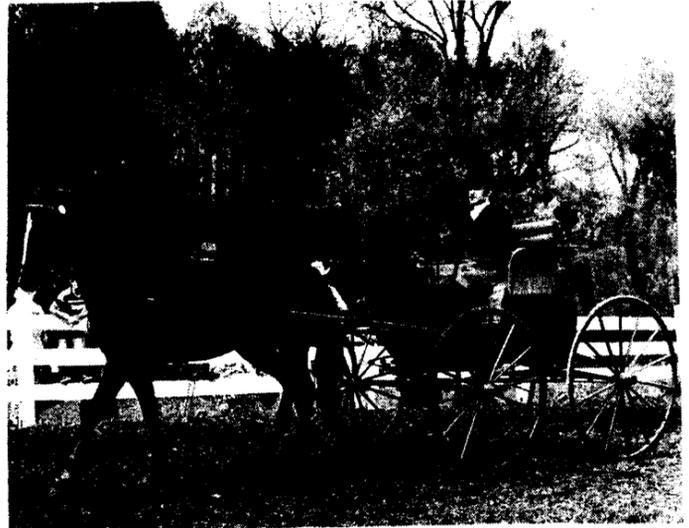
'Cyan' is no landmark album, but it 'is' all 3-Dog Night, and every bit of, it's made of the same fabric that took them to their heights of success. This album is definitely superior to 'Harmony', and probably better than 'Seven Separate Fools', though it's still no match for 'Naturally' or 'It Ain't Easy'.

On this latest disc, they finally make their first baby-steps into the world of song-writing. Long acknowledged as a fine singing group, they break out with not one, but three original, self-written songs, all composed by Mike Allsup, and one of them, "Storybook Feeling," is the prettiest song on the album. Allsup, the lead (and best) guitarist is a suprisingly good songwriter.

So, though they haven't started anything revolutionary, 3-Dog Night is moving along slowly but progressively to greater heights on ground that they have hallowed themselves with their own patented touch. Three Dog Night is indeed alive and very well, and should be living their latest on your stereo.

Ed note: We would welcome your comments and/or notes you have on any new records you may be interested in.

A Morgan Breeder



John Greenall guiding Topfield's Distlefink enroute to blue ribbon at the Allentown Horse Show. The vehicle is an 1890 gentleman's morning carriage.

by
John Bradford Langdon

Most Americans hold their week-ends in near sanctity, whether it be for football, hunting, shopping or working around the home. John Greenall is no exception. He breeds Morgan horses, refinishes antique carriages and runs a riding school, in addition to being a full-time business major at Pennsylvania State University's Capitol Campus.

Every Friday at 3:05 p.m. John begins his journey to Thorny Hills Farms, his parents' farm located near New Tripoli, Pa. School has remained a four and one-half day occupation for him.

Although the Greenall family has owned horses for about 20 years, John's interest in Morgan horse breeding and showing was not sparked until a Morgan horse farm started near his home nine years ago. Reminiscing, John said, "I started visiting farms all over and hung around alot, as any child would, gaining as much knowledge as I could."

His other highly-rated interest, antique horse carriages, was spurred on by the acquisition of his first Morgan, a stallion named Topfield's Distlefink. "The Morgans," he explained, "are ideal for pulling carriages for they're even-tempered, easily trained and really a 'family' horse." The coupling of Morgans and carriages has created a dual obsession, about which his entire life revolves.

Time is a premium to be paid in collecting antique horse-drawn carriages. The 26 year old collector admitted, "I've spent many hours looking for the 'real' find (a well-preserved carriage) and have discovered them in some unusual places. For instance, while I was traveling in Canada, I purchased an 1880's ladies formal wicker carriage from a hotdog stand that had two dummies sitting in it!"

Numbering over 25 horse-drawn vehicles, John's collection was begun by his father, Rodger K. Greenall, in the Fifties. Time has drastically affected buying prices of carriages. John explained, "The Fifty-cent sleigh at an auction has disappeared. Inflation has jumped the prices of antique horse-drawn carriages and sleighs in very rough condition, up to the \$75 - \$200 bracket."

Refinishing the carriages can be an expensive enterprise, so the young collector does most of the painting and repairs himself. However, the Amish of Lancaster County put on new rubber tires and do the upholstery work, some of it using patent leather.

Distlefink, the Morgan stallion, has also afforded John the opportunity to join the Mid-Atlantic Morgan Horse Club. A few years after joining the Club, a European tour for Pennsylvania horse-breeders was being arranged by Penn State's

department head of Animal Hubbandry, James Gallagher, in co-operation with the People - to - People Exchange Program. John was invited to join the tour which represented every breed of horse raised in Pennsylvania. The U.S.S.R., Poland, Austria, Hungary, France, Germany and Ireland were visited by the horse-breeders.

"By far, I was the youngest member of the tour and was quite fortunate to gain clearance from Washington to visit the Communist countries, for at the time I was in the Coast Guard," John noted.

Continuing, he stated, "Our purpose was to exchange ideas about horse breeding and tour selected farms. One of the dramatic differences was the upkeep of the farm grounds. Unpainted and unkept buildings, as compared to our 'manicured' buildings and grounds, were common. However, their products, the horses, were of excellent quality."

The Irish and Russians gave a new look of horse racing to the touring Pennsylvanians, who were accustomed to super commercialized and emotionally wrought contests. The young breeder remarked:

"The Irish run races on UNLEVEL turf and in surroundings which lack the glamour of our tracks. They view horse racing as a sport to be enjoyed, rather than a huge money making endeavor.

"At a track outside Moscow, we encountered a strange situation: Spectators weren't cheering or showing any emotions as the horses neared the finish line, even though they were betting! All the Americans started cheering anyway, and by the end of the eighth race, the crowd was beginning to cheer too! Who knows, maybe it caught on! They seemed to never have experienced that kind of outward show of enthusiasm."

Since the European trip, John's stallion, Distlefink, provided him with another warm experience - winning on the show circuit.

With a touch of pride, the 26 year old competitor commented, "Distlefink and I won a whole shelf-full of silver and various cash prizes last year, until an injury forced my Morgan off the circuit." He added, "After riding his mare throughout her 11-month pregnancy, and raising him from a colt, winning blue ribbons is quite a thrill!"

Last September, however, misfortune nearly cost John a valuable 1885 buckboard surrey, while on his way to Gettysburg, Pa. The surrey tore loose from his flatbed truck and flew back on top of the horse-trailer, narrowly missing obliteration at 60 mph.

On week-ends when he's not showing on the circuit or looking for buggies, John's managing the family farm, conducting his riding school and . . . looking forward to graduation in June.

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